

Security. So I say to my colleagues here in the House, the Democrats realize that a faulty plan is no plan on Social Security. A faulty plan on the war is no plan. Let us get together and solve America's problems.

EMINENT DOMAIN AND SUPREME COURT

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation I have introduced to protect ordinary American citizens from tax abuse at the hands of our government. I was shocked when the United States Supreme Court ruled last month that governments could take private homes, businesses and churches and turn them over to land developers in the name of tax revenue.

My bill, the Eminent Domain Tax Relief Act, would prevent the government from adding insult to this injury. It would eliminate the capital gains tax that an individual has to pay on the money he receives for his condemned property. Eminent domain abuse on its own is intolerable. But taxing those who lose their property is even more deplorable. There is no excuse for making a person pay capital gains tax on something she did not want to sell in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, my legislation says this: No taxation on government condemnation. I ask all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this bill.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND CAFTA

(Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, the rhetoric we are hearing from the other side on Social Security and CAFTA is unbelievable. It is unbelievable because it is not factual. What we are proposing to do with Social Security is to stop the raid of the Social Security surplus and give that money to the worker to go toward their Social Security retirement benefit. If it does not stop the raid, then how come the CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, tells us that the deficit goes up by an equal amount? How can they tell us, Congress, you are either going to have to raise taxes, cut spending or borrow somewhere else because they will not get the Social Security benefit because it is going to workers?

On CAFTA, it is a one-way trade agreement we have today. This makes it two-way. They already have free access to the American markets. We do not have equal access to their markets. They already have lower standards on worker rights, on environment. This raises those standards. If we do not pass CAFTA, they get a free deal. We get no deal. They have low labor

rights. If we do pass CAFTA, we not only improve their labor conditions, we improve the enforcement of their labor rights and we give the American worker and the American economy a fair trade deal like we are now giving them.

PATRIOT ACT REAUTHORIZATION

(Mr. CARTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, after 9/11, my fellow lawmakers wanted to make sure that the PATRIOT Act would protect Americans without trampling the civil rights that we cherish in this Nation. Mr. Speaker, today, 4 years later, the verdict is in. The PATRIOT Act works and is helping defeat terrorism. Those of us who thought the threat of terrorism receded can only look at Great Britain to know that this is not the case. Complacency allows waves of terror to come crashing over free nations. The attacks on London show that the war on terror is not over nor is it confined to a specific location. Securing our homeland is only one facet of the war. Spreading democracy in the savage lands where terrorism propagates is another.

The PATRIOT Act gives us enforcement tools that keep America safe. The PATRIOT Act has removed major legal barriers that prevented law enforcement agencies from coordinating their work. It has also allowed law enforcement to use surveillance against terror-related activities and allowed the issuance of nationwide search warrants. The PATRIOT Act is doing exactly what it is supposed to do. We cannot allow these terrorists to gain momentum in this fight.

DR-CAFTA

(Ms. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage our colleagues to pass the Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement, or DR-CAFTA, when it comes before the House. DR-CAFTA is vital to our Nation's economic competitiveness in today's global marketplace and will serve as an economic engine for driving growth and economic opportunity in the United States and Central America.

In Florida, the Nation's gateway for trade with Central America, we recognize the importance of this regional bloc. The DR-CAFTA countries represent our State's largest export market and the second largest United States market in Latin America. By lowering trade barriers, we can expand this market even further. That is good news for Florida businesses, good news for Florida agricultural products, and good news for Florida workers. The American Farm Bureau estimates that United States exports for agricultural

goods could increase by \$1.5 billion each year.

This agreement has generated thoughtful bipartisan support from various agricultural, textile, business and political groups. Former United States President Carter as well as several key Clinton administration officials support DR-CAFTA. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this crucial trade agreement that will help promote economic growth, political stability and regional security.

DR-CAFTA

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by congratulating all of my colleagues who have stood up this morning in strong support of the Central American Free Trade Agreement. We have seen a very long and growing list of individuals here in the House, Democrats and Republicans, and organizations as well, U.S. businesses, large and small, conservatives and liberals, academia, foreign policy experts and prominent Central Americans.

But sometimes it is more telling to look at the opponents of a particular measure. One of the fiercest opponents of DR-CAFTA is Daniel Ortega, the former Nicaraguan Communist dictator responsible for years of violence and oppression. Today he is trying, as he has been for years, to stage a comeback. He is banking a great deal on the effort to defeat DR-CAFTA. Daniel Ortega knows full well that the economic opportunities that DR-CAFTA will bring would improve the quality of life for Nicaraguans, fight corruption through greater transparency, and solidify Nicaragua's commitment to economic and political freedom. For a dictator whose support stems from civil unrest and ability to manipulate Nicaragua's judicial and legislative systems, implementation of DR-CAFTA would be extremely bad news. I urge my colleagues to oppose the Ortega agenda and support DR-CAFTA.

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PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, point of privilege.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The gentleman may state an inquiry.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to respond to the last 1-minute. My request is that the words of the former speaker at the podium, to associate those of us who have been on the front lines of civil rights, both parties, both sides, with Ortega, this character in Central America, is the most ruthless thing I have heard in a long time. I have no association with that character. He belongs in jail, but simply because he has spoken on this, sir, do not associate me or anybody else with him.